

# THOMAS, TOWNSEND, OR TOWNSHEND— WHAT WAS T.S. BRANDEGEE'S NAME?

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T.S. Brandegee and his wife Katharine Brandegee were important California botanists (Setchell 1926) who contributed greatly to our knowledge of the flora of that floristically rich region during the early decades of the 20th century. The nature and extent of their contributions are amply dealt with elsewhere (see references) and need not detain us here. We became aware of the fact, however, that T.S. Brandegee's full name is referred to in the literature with several variants, which may be a source of confusion. We wished to ascertain which alternative is correct and to share our findings.

In his own publications Brandegee usually cited his name with initials only, as "T.S. Brandegee." Others often referred to him in this same way, but sometimes also as "Townsend Stith Brandegee" (Lanjouw & Stafleu 1954, Lindsay 1955, Thomas 1969, Stafleu & Cowan 1976), sometimes as "Townshend Stith Brandegee" (Setchell 1926, Jones 1929, Ewan 1950, Lindsay 1955, McVaugh 1956, Langman 1964, Thomas 1969, Hunt Institute 1972, Lenz 1986, pp. 26, 84, Bonta 1991, p. 87, Reveal & Pringle 1993), and sometimes as "Thomas Stith Brandegee." (Jones 1929, Rodgers 1968, Lenz 1986, p. 200). Indeed, four of the references cited above (Jones 1929, Lindsay 1955, Thomas 1969, Lenz 1986) are internally inconsistent in citing two different variants of Brandegee's name. We therefore conclude that no single reference can be considered authoritative in solving this problem, nor do we believe that this sort of question can be resolved by majority rule.

All references agree on his second name "Stith," taken from his mother's



maiden name, so that is not a source of controversy. The first name (whether Thomas, Townsend, or Townshend), however, is clearly a source of uncertainty. But two references give an unequivocal answer and thus resolve the uncertainty, and we wish to share this information in the present note.

One paper published by Brandegee (Brandegee 1913) departs from his usual practice of using only initials in the byline, and clearly states "Townshend Stith Brandegee." The second and more persuasive bit of evidence is the portrait of Brandegee at the age of 80 published by Setchell (1926: plate 14), which includes the full signature of Brandegee, reading "Townshend Stith Brandegee." Thus, since it is attested in his own hand, there can be no doubt about the correct spelling of Brandegee's given name, which was not "Townsend" and certainly was not "Thomas."

Even more compelling but less readily accessible are documents in the Brandegee archives kept at the herbarium of the University of California (UC), including his "doctoral diploma from Yale, pension papers, and discharge from the U.S. Army," all of which specify his given name as "Townshend" (Barbara Ertter, pers. comm.).

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